

three are Cuban and one is Guamanian. Three are women, including Rep. Lucile Roybal-Allard (D-Cal.), whose father was a CHC co-founder. The previous chairman was Rep. Jose E. Serrano (D-N.Y.). The current first vice chairman is Resident Commissioner Carlos Romero Barcelo (D-P.R.).

The caucus is dedicated to voicing and advancing, through the legislative process, issues affecting Hispanics in the U.S. and insular areas.

#### THE SPIRIT OF MIAMI

While a guest at President Bill Clinton's historic Summit of the Americas in Miami last December, Garcia was determined to return to Washington committed to assisting the CHC perform a much more active role in fostering dialogue and interaction between its members and Hispanics throughout the hemisphere and elsewhere in the world. "My idea is for the caucus to help really make Clinton's Spirit of Miami work," Garcia said. The Spirit of Miami is a declaration of commitment signed at the summit. He recalled how active the CHC was in the 1970s and 1980s in fostering greater understanding of Latin America.

Although modest, Washington observers point to the important role Garcia performed in persuading the late House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D-Mass.) that Argentine President Raul Alfonsín should be afforded an opportunity to address a joint session of Congress after he had decided such an invitation should not be extended in the post-Falklands War climate.

#### ARGENTINE PRAISE

Garcia's initiative "proved that subjects of common interest are easily discussed among diplomats and Hispanic legislators here, to the benefit of all our countries," Ambassador Granillo Ocampo told Caribbean Business from Washington. "With regard to Argentina's message to the U.S.—a message of political reliability and economic predictability from a country where democracy has flourished, a market economy is growing and human and civil rights are prevalent—I would say it has been understood and fostered in Congress with the help of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus."

The Argentine envoy said: "This was true when the then-Congressman Bob Garcia chaired the Caucus during the 1980s and remains so under the chairmanship of Congressman Ed Pastor."

Although it is a busy time in Washington and the House was in session, several members were able to attend the reception including Reps. Solomon P. Ortiz (D-Texas); Bill Richardson (D-N.M.); Roybal-Allard; Esteban E. Torres (D-Cal.); Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.); and Romero Barcelo accompanied by his wife, Doña Kate. Also present was Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

#### CLINTON REPRESENTED

Representing the Clinton administration, among others, were U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor; Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs; Judge Nelson A. Diaz, general counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; Jeffrey Farrow, co-chairman, White House Inter-agency Working Group on Puerto Rico. HUD Secretary Henry G. Cisneros was represented by his wife, Mary Alice; and another HUD official, Aida Alvarez, the director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, was also there. Tony Rodham, brother of first lady Hillary Clinton, was also present.

Among others in attendance were Puerto Rico Commerce Development Administrator Juan Woodroffe and National Puerto Rican

Coalition Chief Executive Officer Manuel Mirabel.

### TO AMEND THE INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT ON BEHALF OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

#### HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the suit filed by the Seminole Indians that would allow tribes to sue States in order to enter into Class III gaming—casino gambling—compacts. The Court's interest in hearing this case points to the long overdue need for a restructuring of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. One glaring flaw of the statute lies with the current approval process for gaming compacts—the local communities do not have a voice in these matters which will clearly impact their quality of life.

By way of background, under current law, all that is required for Class III gaming approval is a compact between the tribe and State—the local community affected by the gaming activity has no involvement in the approval process. Moreover, under the current law, State and local governments are prohibited from assessing taxes on these gaming activities. I believe that the local community, whose infrastructure and public services will be strained by the operation of a gambling casino, should be able to participate in the approval process. A full-fledged casino would place untold burdens on the police, fire, rescue, and other public services of a small town. The roads, bridges and water and sewer capabilities of a small or rural town would be inadequate to handle the added demand and usage.

Today I am joined by a number of interested members in introducing legislation that will give local communities a voice in the approval process. First, the elected governing body, such as the city council, mayor or county commissioners, would be required to approve the Tribal-State compact. Second, the local community will then have the opportunity to approve the compact through a referendum. The inclusion of the local community in the gaming compact will not only reflect a more complete representation of the people of the affected area, but I believe will foster a friendlier and more cooperative relationship between the tribes and the local communities in which they reside.

Whether you are a proponent of opponent of casino gambling, the concerns of impacted local communities should be factored into the process. This legislation will go a long way to alleviate these concerns, and believe that it is time for Congress to take action and amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

### IN SUPPORT OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for the Endangered Species Act. For over 20 years, this landmark legislation has been America's contract with nature.

It has also ensured the survival and conservation of hundreds of native fish, wildlife and plant species—and with them our natural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act has helped to preserve biological diversity within our country by preserving species that are on the brink of extinction. Since 1973, 731 U.S. species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act. Without this vital protection, many listed species, including our national symbol, the bald eagle, would have long since become extinct.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act is at a decisive crossroads.

While it has come under attack from those who contend that it places unnecessary roadblocks in the path of economic development, polls consistently show that the American people support the Endangered Species Act by wide margins.

The American people know that to abandon the Endangered Species Act would be tantamount to an open season on endangered waterfowl, marine mammals, songbirds, and other federally protected wildlife. It would give a green light to international traffickers of fur-bearing animals, wild birds, elephant ivory, tigers, and other wildlife and wildlife products.

The time to protect America's biological resources is now Mr. Speaker. I urge all of my colleagues to support re-authorization of a strong Endangered Species Act.

### DELAURO HONORS AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 103d Air Control Squadron of the Connecticut Air National Guard in Orange, CT. The Orange Unit's tremendous service to our country has earned it the 1994 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

For more than a half-century, the Orange Air National Guard Unit has guaranteed our Nation's security and demonstrated that citizen militias—such as the ones that fought for and won freedom in this land over 200 years ago—are still effective and necessary. With support from a small number of full-time Air Force personnel, the Orange Unit fields more than 250 airmen and women. These members of our community serve the United States through the Air National Guard while keeping their commitments to careers and families. These National guardsmen and women deserve our deepest thanks for their selfless service.